

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS YVONNE B. BURKE
AND MICHAEL ANTONOVICH**

OCTOBER 23, 2007

In recent days, the media has spotlighted a study from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that found the estimated number of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) infections in the United States is significantly higher than previously thought, and the bacterium now kills more Americans than AIDS. According to the study, in 2005 MRSA made an estimated 94,000 Americans seriously ill and was responsible for almost 19,000 deaths. This new information on the pervasiveness of MRSA in the population presents a serious public health concern for the residents of Los Angeles County.

Staphylococcus Aureus, commonly referred to as “Staph,” are bacteria found in the nose or skin and it is the most common cause of skin infections. Since the advent of antibiotics in the 1950s, Staph has developed resistance to an increasing number of antibiotics prescribed to treat skin and blood infections. These Staph are called MRSA and they are common infections in hospitals and other healthcare settings such as dialysis centers and nursing homes. MRSA often affect the elderly, young children, or individuals with other serious health problems.

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MOTION

MOLINA	_____
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ANTONOVICH	_____
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For the last 5 years, healthcare providers across the United States have seen MRSA infections occurring in healthy people outside of hospitals. Most of these MRSA infections cause skin infections, but some may lead to blood infection and more serious, life-threatening disease. Since they occur in people in the community without a recent connection to the healthcare system, they are referred to as community-associated MRSA (or CAMRSA) infections. Fortunately these strains usually are treatable with common antibiotics, unlike the hospital-based MRSA strains.

The Department of Public Health (DPH) is responsible for surveillance of communicable diseases and investigation of outbreaks. The first outbreaks of CAMRSA in Los Angeles were found in athletic teams about 4 years ago. DPH has conducted a number of in-depth investigations in a variety of settings and has contributed to the epidemiology and general medical knowledge of CAMRSA.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to work in concert with the Director of the Department of Public Health to immediately assess the public health threat posed by MRSA and advise the Board on any additional actions or resources that could be helpful in responding to this rising health problem.

WE, FURTHER MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the CEO to work in concert with the Department of Public Health to report back in 3 weeks on the actions taken on this matter.

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